THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 11th March 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Manufacture of heavy chemicals.

* 98 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether applications have been received from individuals or companies for starting manufacture of heavy chemicals such as soda ash, caustic soda, etc.;

(*b*) whether the Government have examined the prospects of these industries in the light of recommendations of the panel on heavy chemicals;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the short supply of these chemicals is so acute that establishments using these chemicals in manufacturing processes are either forced to close down the factories or reduce production;

(*d*) what steps the Government propose to take to accelerate the progress of these industries;

(*e*) whether the policy of nationalization is to be applied to the production of these chemicals; and

(*f*) how it is to be enforced?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The final report of the panel has not yet been received.

" (*c*) Government are not aware of the closure of any factory for this reason, though in some cases, production may have gone down.

" (*d*) to (*f*) These questions are under consideration and an early announcement of the decisions will be made."

Re-employment of retired persons.

* 99 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) with reference to answer to question No. 24 answered on the 9th September 1946, whether heads of departments have been instructed not to send up proposals either for re-employment of those who have retired or recommend the extension of service of those who are due to retire;

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(*b*) whether it is a fact that when officers due to retire apply for leave preparatory to retirement they have been in many cases refused leave; and if so, whether such officers are entitled to enjoy leave after retirement virtually entitling extension of service;

(*c*) whether the Government have considered the desirability of stopping the procedure mentioned in (*b*);

(*d*) whether it is a fact that re-employment or extension of service or refusal to grant leave preparatory to retirement, results in blocking the chances of promotion of those who would have otherwise normally secured promotion;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the action of the kind mentioned in (*d*) has created heart-burning in officers who are looking forward to normal promotions; and

(*f*) whether the Government propose to issue instructions not to entertain or submit proposals for either re-employment of retired persons or for extension of service of those due to retire or refuse to grant leave preparatory to retirement?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" (*a*), (*c*) & (*f*) In practice Government servants are generally not granted any extension of service. In cases where the services of senior men on the verge of retirement are required, they are retired and subsequently re-employed. The policy of the Government is to discourage even cases of such re-employment and this policy is followed consistent with public interest. The Government consider that the instructions already issued in the matter are sufficient.

" (*b*) The answer to the first part of the question is that there have occasionally been such cases and the answer to the second part is in the affirmative.

" (*d*) Theoretically it is so but in practice such block in promotion will not arise as re-employment is resorted to only if qualified and suitable candidates are not available for appointment or promotion in the normal way.

" (*e*) The Government are not aware of any such heart-burning. Nor do they believe that there is any such thing in view of their policy mentioned in the answer to clauses (*a*), (*c*) and (*f*)."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I take it, Sir, that generally the heads of departments follow the instructions of the Government and only in exceptional cases and in cases where a deviation is to be made, they approach the Government to consider the desirability of either extending or re-employing retired men? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Yes, Sir, it is so."

Distribution of cloth in the city.

* 100 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the arrangements are for the distribution of cloth in the city;